

## CHARLES CHERRY IN NEW PLAY

## MELODRAMA AND COMEDY IN "THE SPITFIRE"

The Mixture Proves Good and Daniel Frohman's Staging of the Yachting Play Helps It to Succeed—A Week to Wind Up Four Scenes Aboard Ship.

Edward Peple, who was a candidate for the dramatist's laurels only a week ago at the Belasco Theatre, came forward again last night at the Lyceum Theatre as the author of "The Spitfire," described as a nautical, melodramatic comedy. Mr. Peple has again set to work, as he did in the case of "The Call of the Cricket," with one eye on the Young Person and the other on the star for whom the play was constructed.

This happens in the present case to be Charles Cherry. He was called upon to be a young engineer who had been robbed of his valuables and papers, saved from drowning and then made an object of suspicion to all on board the yacht that had rescued him.

She was called "The Spitfire" and belonged to a rich American, so the nautical character of the comedy resided in that fact as well as in the passage of the first three acts on board this vessel. Melodrama was supplied by the theft of the jewels with which the play began, the spurious orders to sail the yacht from Calais to New York, and the storm which shipwrecked on the New Jersey coast the discredited engineer and his sweetheart, who was also the daughter of the absent owner of the yacht.

The comedy was always on the surface, with these more serious elements appearing only at intervals. Naturally it was the conflict between the young woman and the man she had been led to believe should be treated as a common sailor that brought out the funniest humor of the drama. It was of course inevitable that this suspected hero should win the love of the young woman who was misled into treating him so badly and that he should show himself worthy of all the affection she ultimately gave him.

Whether it was in his comedy or his melodrama, Mr. Peple met with complete success in "The Spitfire." The comedy of the first two acts never failed of its effect and with the picturesque setting of the sea as a background and an admirable reproduction of a yacht's deck as the scene, there was only slight regret for the audience in the development of the love between the young woman in charge of the boat and the passenger over whom she was able to tyrannize.

Mr. Peple's speeches were well written, and frequently pointed with wit, and such incidental episodes as the healthy scrap between a bull of an officer and the gentleman temporarily under his control served to stir the blood of the audience when the necessity arose for more dramatic action to animate the polite comedy that dominated the mood of the play before the third act.

Perhaps there might have been greater clearness as to the relation of the characters when in the third act played in a ruffled representation of a luxurious yacht's cabin—the serious elements grew more tense. There was a momentary weakening of interest in the episodes leading to the shipwreck that were immediately forgotten, however, in the thrilling picture of the shattered vessel and the rescue of the heroine by her suspected lover. The closing of the third act, moreover, gave the right note of contrast to the play and completed the measure of success which came in such abundance to all concerned.

There was about the performance the inevitable cachet of artistic effort that is to be looked for in a production by Daniel Frohman. Charles Cherry's attractive personality and his still inimitable E. J. Ratcliffe made a very melodramatic villain in a very improbable situation seem plausible, while Daniel Collier's broad but dignified assistance contributed its value to the comic scenes.

Ruth Maycliffe never seemed more blond nor more lovely to look at than she did last night, so it would be curious to wish for a little more variety and less vociferousness in her performance as the willful heiress in command of the Spitfire. On the whole, however, the evening was a success, and with her accustomed peculiarities of staccato speech, while Rosa Rand was an impressive character. It was her participation in "The Spitfire" that helped it to such success as few recent comedies have achieved.

## DIPPEL HURRYING TO NICE.

Balls on the Cecille and Finds Tauscher a Friend in Need.

Andrew Dippel, who had been called to New York by the news of his wife's serious illness at Nice, did not decide to sail on the Cecille until yesterday morning at 7 o'clock, when a telegram for which he had sat up waiting all night arrived. It said that Mrs. Dippel's condition had grown worse during the last twelve hours and that he had better come at once.

Although he had no accommodations on the steamer, Mr. Dippel felt that he would find somebody to take him in, and Hans Tauscher, husband of Mme. Gadski, who was returning to Germany on the boat, offered to share his cabin with him. Mr. Dippel had only hand luggage with him. He is going straight to Nice from Cherbourg. He will return to this country in May to conclude the final organization of the Chicago Opera Company. He will be accompanied by his wife, who was Mme. Aida until a few weeks ago, sailed on the same steamer to attend to the details of the season to be given by the Metropolitan opera company at the Châtelet Theatre in Paris. It will take place during May. Mme. Aida will appear as Desdemona and in "Falstaff." Next year she will sing at the Boston Opera House and in Chicago.

## Stole a Commemorative Tablet.

Three days ago a bronze tablet giving the facts concerning the erection of the viaduct running from Park avenue to Sheridan avenue over the railroad cut was taken from its place on the viaduct. Philip Donohue of 637 Morris avenue, The Bronx, was locked up at Police Headquarters last night charged with the theft of the tablet. Donohue showed the police where he had buried it in a stable yard at 580 Morris avenue. The police dug the tablet up and took it along for evidence. The tablet is worth \$100.

## Girl Fatally Hurt by Auto in Park.

Yetta Schwartz, 12 years old, who was in Central Park yesterday with her mother, Mrs. Celia Schwartz, and her two brothers, Jacob and Morris, was run down on the East Drive near 162d street by an automobile. The child was taken to Mount Sinai Hospital, where she died. The chauffeur of the auto was locked up charged with homicide. He is Leslie J. Schmidt of 161 West Ninetieth street and was driving for Joseph Battle of 214 Audubon avenue, who owns the car.

## The Wall Street "Evening Sun."

The Wall Street edition of THE EVENING SUN contains all the financial news and the stock and bond quotations to the close of the market. The closing quotations, including the "bid and asked" prices, with additional news matter, are contained also in the night edition of THE EVENING SUN.

## LIVE TOPICS ABOUT TOWN.

A stock broker who had his new 40 horse-power 1910 model automobile delivered to him the other day decided to celebrate the occasion, the market being dull, by a run on the country roads. To be on the safe side on his gasoline supply he decided to stop at a garage to have the tank filled. As it was being measured out he turned to his son, a sturdy chap of 8, who had followed him inside the garage, to impress upon him the dangers of gasoline. Calling him by name he said:

"You would go straight to heaven if I put a match to that gasoline." Looking at his father straight in the eyes he replied:

"And where would you go, dad?"

Park Commissioner Stover has established a swan and duck nursery on the lower lake of Central Park where mother fowl may hatch out their young without molestation from marauders, who in past years have been getting most of the benefit of the city's industrious water fowl.

In a big reservation where there are no keep off the grass signs the visitors used to wander into all the secluded places where the fowl were trying to do their duty to the master that fed them. Some of the visitors helped themselves to the eggs after driving from the nest the motherly duck or swan. For years not a swan egg was left in the nest long enough to gratify the ambition of the sitting fowl.

This year the prospect is brighter, for the six black and twenty white swans and the twenty or thirty wild ducks that have their home on the small body of water that lies among the hills in the southern part of the park. The nursery is upon a peninsula that juts out into the lake. A high wire fence has been put up on the back of the peninsula to keep out egg stealers and a policeman and a keeper from the menagerie have been placed as guardians over it.

To insure peace to the motherly fowl Commissioner Stover has rescinded the boat privilege on that body of water. The place is to be the permanent home of the water fowl, as all of them have been transferred from the upper arm of the big lake opposite West Seventy-seventh street, where several of them died last winter from some unknown cause.

"The chap who works on one side of me," said an office man, "has been married six weeks and he sneaks to the telephone about four times a day and calls up his wife, and then I hear him saying: 'Dear, how is your headache now? I hope you are feeling better.' Then pretty soon he comes back to his desk and goes to work again all smiling."

"The man who works on the other side of me has been married six years and he goes to the telephone only when he is called and then I hear him saying: 'Why, I can't possibly do that. I can't spare the money,' and then he comes back to his desk all scowling."

"And, really, when I hear the way these two men go on I don't know whether to stay a bachelor."

The softest job in New York? Why, that of the colored citizen in the white duck coat who only has to stretch out in a rocking chair in the window of a furniture store on Thirty-fourth street and read a book while by machinery he is rocked and rocked and rocked.

An old circus man was dolefully reading the report of frostbitten crops in the middle West.

"What do you care?" interrupted a flippant New Yorker.

"Care?" shouted the circus man. "Aside from humanitarian instincts, I take a tremendous interest in those blighted fields. Just remember that I must go on the road in a couple of weeks. I am slated for a rural division this season and a circus route is shaped entirely by the condition of the crops. The heat and the cold, the rain and the drought decide whether we shall show in central Iowa or southern Texas. The place for the farmer to make the most money is the place for us. Owing to the uncertainty of weather conditions the small circus never places its route more than two or three weeks in advance. I like to play the middle West. When crops are good the folks out there simply throw money at a circus."

Two Coney Island waiters were talking about short changing.

"It's bad to take a raw chance," said one, "because you can never tell what will happen if you're caught. The best pickings I ever had I didn't take any chances on." It was last summer at the Seattle exposition, he was selling tickets at a fifteen cent rate. A tourist came by a guy shoved in a two dollar bill for one or two tickets. I counted out carefully for ten cents in silver too much. If he bought two tickets I'd have 80 cents in silver. Nine men out of ten would grab the change and beat it, thinking they had beat me out of a dime. They seldom remembered that I had a dollar more to give them, they were in such a hurry to get away with my dime.

"The tenth man, who didn't fall for the game, was generally honest enough to shove my dime back, so I seldom lost any thing. I made \$10 a day besides my pay, all without taking a chance."

## GRAT CROWD ON THE CECILLE.

Every Berth and Stateroom Pull Peary One of These Leavins.

The German liner Kronprinzessin Cecille left port yesterday morning with every berth and stateroom occupied. It was said to be the largest number of cabin passengers ever carried on a single steamer from this side. She also had one of the largest consignments of gold and silver that has been sent from this country. It amounted to \$19,000,000 in gold and \$7,000,000 in silver.

Commander Peary, his wife, daughter and son, and Capt. Bob Bartlett were among the passengers. Commander Peary is going to London to receive a gold medal presented by the Royal Geographical Society and Capt. Bartlett is to get a silver one. Commander Peary said he and the captain would do a little lecturing. "I am out of the race myself," said Commander Peary. "I believe the south pole will be reached within the next two years. America must certainly be in for her share of the honors when the work is taken up again."

Dr. Hadenpyl Down With Pneumonia.

Dr. Eugene Hadenpyl, pathologist of Roosevelt Hospital, who very recently in a paper in the Medical Record gave the preliminary details of his discovery of a remarkably hopeful treatment for the cure of cancer by an antitoxin of nature's own provision, is ill of pneumonia at his home, 57 East Sixty-third street. He was recovering from an attack of sciatica on Sunday when he came down with pneumonia. It was said at his home yesterday afternoon that he was doing as well as could be expected and that no unfavorable symptoms had developed.

Runaway Horse Meets Death by Burning.

A runaway delivery wagon horse fell into an excavation between the car tracks at 110th street and Manhattan avenue last night. A metal part of the harness came in contact with the channel rail carrying the electric current. The current wasn't powerful enough to kill the horse at once, but by the time a wrenching crew got the horse out it had been burned to death.

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## BOOKS AND AUTHORS.

Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin has gone to England for her usual spring visit. Anthony Hope has asked Mrs. Wiggin to respond to one of the toasts at the annual dinner of the Royal Literary Fund in London on May 5. The other speakers will be Maureen Hewlett, Gilbert K. Chesterton, Maarten Maartens, Lord Tennyson and Andrew Lang. Early in May Mrs. Wiggin will go to Stratford to see the first performance of "The Piper" at the Memorial Theatre. Josephine Preston Peabody, the author of the prize play, has invited Mrs. Wiggin to be present.

The name "Georg Schock," which appears as the author of the new novel "Hearts Contending," has aroused curiosity as to the personality it conceals. Georg Schock is a woman who lives in Pennsylvania. Her home is near the Heilighal, the scene of her story, and she is a close observer of just such incidents as those described in her book.

Portland roses are the pride of Oregon and their fame has caused the city to be nicknamed the Rose City. Roses climb to the tops of the houses and are planted by the roadside. How this is done and why it is possible is told by Mr. Frederick V. Holman in the May Garden Magazine. To Mr. Holman is due also the credit of introducing the rose as a feature to the city of Portland.

The dominating characteristic of Serrick Kilmarney, the young Irishman who is the hero of Muriel Hine's "Half in Earnest," to be published this week, is love of freedom. This love of freedom plays an important part in the story of Kilmarney's relations with the beautiful woman, the "sun worshipper" whom he meets on the island of Capri. Kilmarney scorns many of the conventions of modern society, but he is also devoted to politics, and his relations with Candida Clifton have an unexpected ending.

George Edward Woodbury, author of many books, of which "The Inspiration of Poetry," the volume of criticism published at the beginning of this year, is the latest, has been made an honorary foreign fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

"Above Life's Turmoil" is the title of the new volume of essays to be published by James Allen, the author of "As a Man Thinketh" and "The Master of Destiny." Like their predecessors, these essays deal with the problems of life from a healthy and hopeful point of view. Mr. Allen's philosophy is summed up in the following sentence from the essay on "True Happiness":

"To maintain an unchangeable sweetness of disposition, to think only thoughts that are pure and gentle, and to be happy under all circumstances . . . such beauty of character and life should be the aim of all."

Josephine Preston Peabody's "The Piper," a play in four acts in blank verse, is being published in an English edition. This is the play selected by the Shakespeare memorial committee at Stratford as the prize winner among several hundreds in a competition for 1909. The committee was unanimous in their choice and some of them, including Mr. F. R. Benson, thought so highly of "The Piper" that they would produce it on three separate occasions at the Shakespeare festival at Stratford. Mrs. Peabody will be in Stratford to see the presentation of her play, which she read here in New York during the winter.

Professor Copinger, the English scholar and writer who died recently, had one characteristic which demonstrated his great kindness of heart. He invariably answered all letters on all kinds of subjects, altruistic or even foolish, from perfect strangers as well as friends, and all his knowledge was put ungrudgingly at their service, although it was often at the expense of his own time. He was in the habit of working until 2 o'clock in the morning cataloguing, compiling and writing. During the writing of his "Bible and Its Transmission" he collected a library of Bibles amounting to over 2,000 volumes, and of Thomas & Kempis's "Imitatio Christi," which he translated in 1909, he had 1,000 editions.

Mr. William John Courthope was until recently a Civil Service Commissioner in England, and like many English Government officials he has found time to be a distinguished writer as well. In addition to his "Life of Pope," which Mr. Courthope wrote in collaboration with Mr. Elwin, Mr. Courthope is the author of a life of Addison. For some years now he has been devoting himself to his new work "The History of English Poetry." He has a thoughtful Old World mind and the leisurely temperament of a true lover of study and of literature. His "History of English Poetry" fills six volumes and concludes with the poetry of Sir Walter Scott.

Sidney Warwick is a young writer and

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his novel "A House of Lies" is his first book to be published on this side of the water. Mr. Warwick is now at work on a new novel dealing with the stage, which will be ready in the autumn.

The English Review for the month contains a poem by Mr. Hardy on Swinburne and a lecture by Anatole France delivered at Rio de Janeiro which seeks to prove that the spirit of Christianity was present in the Augustan period in the worship of Mithras, Adonis and Osiris. These cults of pity and sacrifice were Oriental in origin and according to M. France largely owed their popularity in Rome to the courtesans. M. France does not offer detailed argument, but rather begs the question in finely turned phrases.

MacCracken to Tour the World.

Chancellor MacCracken of New York University, whose resignation was accepted by the council of the university on Monday, said that his plans for the future were not yet fully made. The election for the Hall of Fame, which comes in October, will keep him busy for just about a month. The summer and early fall the chancellor will spend on his farm in the Catskills. After that is over the chancellor and Mrs. MacCracken intend to make a tour of the world.

John La Farge Recovers.

John La Farge, the artist, who has been very ill with an aggravated case of grip, was said at his apartment, 12 Fifth avenue, yesterday afternoon to be very much improved.

Dr. John W. Brannan of 11 West Twelfth street has pronounced him definitely out of danger.

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Class Honors at Hamilton College.

Utica, N. Y., April 26.—These honors have been awarded for campus day at Hamilton College on Monday, June 27: President, Edmund P. Glover of New York; class orator, Sidney A. Sherwin of Batavia; class poet, Leo O. Coupe of Utica; Ivy orator, Horace G. Getman of Kansas City, Mo.; junior response, Emory

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